

FILED IN THE
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

Oct 24, 2023

SEAN F. MCAVOY, CLERK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

CHRISTOPHER VAUGHN SCHLAX,

Defendant.

No. 1:22-CR-02109-SAB-2

**ORDER ACCEPTING PLEA AND
SETTING SENTENCING SCHEDULE**

On October 24, 2023, Defendant appeared before the Court in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service in Yakima, Washington and entered a plea of guilty to Counts 1-3 of the Indictment filed on November 9, 2022, charging Defendant with three counts of Damage by Fire to Building or Personal Property Used in Interstate and Foreign Commerce, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 844(i). Defendant was represented by Nick Mirr. The United States was represented by Assistant United States Attorney Christopher Bridger.

The Court finds that Defendant is fully competent and aware of the nature of the charges and consequences of the plea, that the plea of guilty is knowing and voluntary, is not induced by fear, coercion, or ignorance, and is supported by an independent basis in fact establishing each of the essential elements of the crime. Therefore, Defendant's plea of guilty is accepted.

Accordingly, **IT IS ORDERED:**

1. All pending pretrial motions, if any, are **DENIED AS MOOT.**

2. All previously set court dates, including the trial date, are **STRICKEN**.

3. Sentencing shall be held **January 24, 2024**, at **11:00 a.m.** in **Yakima**, Washington. Pending sentencing Defendant shall remain in the custody of the United States Marshals Service pursuant to this Court's previous Order. A motion to continue must be filed at least **10 days** prior to the scheduled sentencing hearing.

4. The United States Probation Officer shall prepare a timely presentence investigation report ("PSIR") which will comply with the following schedule:

(a) Not less than **35 days prior to the date set for sentencing**, the Probation Officer shall disclose the PSIR to counsel for Defendant and the United States. Within **14 days thereafter**, counsel shall communicate in writing to the probation office any objections they may have as to any factual errors or omissions; sentencing classifications; sentencing guideline ranges; and policy statements contained in or omitted from the report. Such communication may be oral initially but shall immediately be confirmed in writing to the Probation Officer and opposing counsel.

Objections shall be numbered and identify the paragraph(s) to which the objection applies. Objections shall address the PSIR in sequential order, beginning with the lowest numbered paragraph.

(b) After receiving counsel's objections, the Probation Officer shall conduct any further investigation and make any revisions to the PSIR that may be necessary. The Probation Officer may require counsel for both parties to meet with the officer to discuss unresolved factual and legal issues and counsel shall make themselves available for that purpose.

(c) At least **10 days prior to the date of the sentencing hearing**, the Probation Officer shall submit the PSIR to the sentencing judge. The PSIR shall be accompanied by an addendum setting forth any objections counsel may have made, including those that have not been resolved, together with the officer's comments and recommendations thereon. The Probation Officer shall certify that the contents of the report, other than sentencing recommendations, including any revisions or addenda, have

1 been disclosed to counsel for the Defendant and the United States, and that the addendum
2 fairly states any remaining objections.

3 (d) Except with regard to any written objection made under sub-division (a),
4 the PSIR and computations shall be accepted by the Court as accurate. Upon a timely
5 objection by the Defendant, the United States bears the burden of proof on any fact that is
6 necessary to establish the base offense level. The Court, however, for good cause shown,
7 may allow a new objection to be raised at any time before the imposition of sentence. In
8 resolving disputed issues of fact, the Court may consider any reliable information
9 presented by the Probation Officer, the Defendant, or the United States.

10 (e) Nothing in this Order requires the disclosure of any portions of the PSIR
11 that are not disclosable under Rule 32 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

12 (f) The PSIR shall be deemed to have been disclosed: (1) when a copy of the
13 report is physically delivered; or (2) one day after the report's availability for inspection is
14 orally communicated; or (3) three days after a copy of the report or notice of its
15 availability is mailed to counsel, whichever date is earlier.

16 5. All written materials in support of sentencing recommendations **shall be filed**
17 **at least 15 days prior to the sentencing hearing.** The opposing party shall file and serve
18 a response, if any, **within 7 days** of receipt of the motion.

19 //

20 //

21 //

22 //

23 //

24 //

25 //

26 //

27 //

28 //

1 6. By and through this Order, the District Court Executive is authorized to accept
2 Defendant's payment in the amount of \$100 per count, for a total of \$300, toward Special
3 Penalty Assessments.

4 The District Court Executive is directed to file this Order and provide copies to
5 counsel **AND TO** the United States Probation Office.

6 **DATED** this 24th day of October 2023.



11 

12 Stanley A. Bastian
13 Chief United States District Judge
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28